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**AUGUST 4, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HYATTSVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO
OVER 65 YEARS FOR KIDNAPPING**

GREENBELT, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Gregory Anthony Johnson, age 21, of Hyattsville, Maryland was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Peter J. Messitte to serve 405 months in prison arising from his jury conviction on May 8, 2003 for the kidnapping of a young female college student and attempt to kill her to prevent her from reporting the kidnapping. Johnson was also sentenced to a consecutive 32 years in prison for use of a firearm during the commission of these crimes, resulting in a total sentence of 65 years, 9 months.

The evidence at trial established that during the early morning of February 8, 2002 Johnson, Alexander Martin and two others drove to a Queenstown apartment complex with a duffle bag containing an AK47 or SK-type firearm looking for someone to rob. Martin, armed with the firearm which had been retrieved from Johnson's home, and Johnson, armed with a .38 caliber revolver, approached a female college student and her two male friends walking in the same apartment parking lot. Johnson and Martin were joined by a third male from their vehicle, who was also armed with a handgun. The driver remained in the vehicle. All three victims were ordered to get on the

ground. They were frisked and a wallet with no money was taken. When one of the male victims advised the robbers he was dead broke, Johnson kicked him in the face and shot him. The bullet passed through his coat and sweater and ended up in his jacket pocket. He was not injured by the shot.

At this time, the female victim was pulled off the ground and forced into the vehicle previously occupied by Johnson, Martin and their associates. During the ride from Maryland into the District of Columbia, the female victim was struck repeatedly in the face and attempts were made to sexually assault her. The victim opened the passenger door and threw herself out of the vehicle, falling in the middle of the road. Johnson shot her three times before returning to the car and leaving her for dead.

Co-defendant Martin, age 22, of Hyattsville, Maryland pled guilty to the kidnapping and use of a firearm. Martin was sentenced on May 29, 2003 to 290 months imprisonment for the kidnapping and a consecutive 7 years for the use of the firearm.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Prince George's County Police Department with assistance from the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Deborah A. Johnston and Ronald Tenpas.